

BASEBALL—SPORTS OF ALL SORTS—BOXING

CUBS NEED FIELD GENERAL— SOX PLAY TEXAS LEAGUERS

By Mark Shields.

Accounts of the games the Cubs are playing on the coast forcibly emphasize the need of a field leader and the perfection of teamwork before the opening of the National league season. If present defects are not remedied there will be glaring mistakes that will be fatal to any material advances in the percentage column.

Twice yesterday in battle against San Francisco, which the Cubs lost 3 to 2, fly balls fell safe when they should have been caught. One popped up back of second base. Cy Williams tried for it, but it was too short, and Yerkes and Wolfe stood around while the horsehide hit the dust for a safety and a run.

Immediately thereafter a ball was knocked in the air back of third base. Leslie Mann, dashed in, but the ball should have been caught by Deal. As a result of the mix-up, this drooper also fell safe and another run registered.

With Larry Doyle, the captain, on the bench, there appears to be no directing head when the club is on the field and the men interfere with each other in retrieving wallops. This smoothness in going after plays is one of the prime requisites of team play, and until the Cubs master it they will be under a severe handicap.

In the fact that no captain has been appointed to supplant Doyle is seen additional evidence that Larry will be operating at the keystone, April 11, and for several days previous to that. Otherwise, some field head would be appointed, for Fred Mitchell is no ignoramus and has been in the big league long enough to realize the futility of headless play.

There are some fair brains on the

infield, but none that sticks out above the others when Doyle is out of the game. Larry is competent to give directions. But Saler, Wortman and Deal are not, and orders should come from the infield, or from the catcher.

Each time out for Jim Vaughn improves the condition of the gigantic left-hander and he is better than he was at this period last year. His control is excellent and his crossfire is greatly improved. In seven rounds yesterday he set seven gents down on strikes, steaming up and doing the fanning when the opposition got athletes on the towpaths.

Prendergast was the victim of the misjudged flies, and Al Demaree came through unscathed. Demaree likes to play in Chicago and is taking good care of his arm. The cartoonist should be a good pitcher. It isn't reasonable to believe he shot his bolt with the Phillies two years ago.

Today the White Sox first team opens against the aliens at Fort Worth and the seconds take a whirl at Dallas. Strong combinations will be sent to both Texas villages, and Manager Rowland has hopes for two victories. Ray Schalk will be out of the game. The midget wonder suffered a slight illness, but wanted to work. Rowland, however, put a damper on his aspirations.

With the rail strike looming to menace exhibition tours, a rearrangement of the southern schedule has been made. The first team will go to Houston next Saturday and play there the entire week. Houston boasts a grass diamond, one of the best in the south, and Rowland wants to give his men a drill on something resembling the fields found around the big circuit.

Jim Scott will get a whirl at the Texas leaguers tomorrow. He is strong and able to do more work than any other hurler in camp. Yesterday he went six innings against